

Tool 4

USEFUL CONTACTS – LEARNING PROVIDERS

For contacts with colleges and training providers, the system is hugely complicated and varies according to where you are. In Devon we can use the following:

- Adult & Community Learning and Family Learning pages on the county website
- Voluntary sector networks, via the Community Council and the Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS)
- Workers Educational Association may be interested in adopting your course as part of their rural provision, though they have many competing demands on a fixed budget – wea.org.uk.
- Specialist training organisations on CVS and other websites
- College websites – normally the name followed by “.ac.uk”
- Training Provider Network – trainingprovider.com; or nationally the Association of Learning Providers – learningproviders.org.uk
- Learndirect can tell you what courses are already running in some colleges and training providers – there is a helpline (0800 100 900) and a website (hotcourses.com and associated links)
- Learndirect also have local centres who may be interested in working with you – they are listed on Learndirect.co.uk
- Nextstep – the national service for information, advice and guidance for adults on learning and work – they have websites, local centres and sometimes network co-ordinators e.g. direct.gov.uk/Nextstep. See also IAG in Tool 5.
- Learning Partnerships – this covers all sorts of setups and the partnerships themselves may no longer exist in your area, but you could try an internet search
- The government funding agency for adult learning is currently the Learning and Skills Council, who have local offices and may be able to help with any of the above.

Besides this, you will find some people with small businesses may volunteer to lead your learning activity, and they may be just what you want – familiar with your community, friendly, supportive, and also know their stuff. But for the sake of your learners, you had better check! The same points apply as under “Employing a Tutor”. (Tool 3).

Other sources of advice about setting up learning opportunities could include:

- National Institute for Adult and Continuing Education (NI ACE) for projects and advice on learning for adults – niace.org.uk 0116 204 4200
- Adult and Community Learning, Open and Distance Learning, Learning Styles and other wide-ranging information on support4learning.org.uk/education

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- Citizens Advice Bureau e.g. for courses on financial literacy, managing debt
citizensadvice.org.uk
- Princes Trust, who already run courses for unemployed people – princes-trust.org.uk 0800 842 842
- Skill, the national bureau for learners with disabilities – skill.org.uk 020 7450 0620
- Libraries, who carry recent directories and prospectuses
- Dfes.gov.uk/readwriteplus for Skills for Life (Language, Literacy and Numeracy)
- Qca.org.uk for qualifications information and signposting to individual awarding bodies such as City and Guilds.